

## ABSTRACT

The invention relates to an apparatus and a method for monitoring a detection region of a working element (100). The apparatus has at least one camera for continuously monitoring the detection region, and an evaluation unit (53), into which image information generated by the camera is read. In the evaluation unit (53), a comparison of the image information to reference images, and/or a color-feature analysis, allows the detection of endangered objects within at least one protection zone in the detection region. If at least one endangered object is detected inside the protection zone, the evaluation unit (53) disables the working element (100). In contrast, if no endangered object (54) is located inside the protection zone, the evaluation unit (53) enables the working element (100).

DC2DOCS1\261613v2